

a receiver-decoder tagger for applying receiver-decoder tags to program material received by said receiver-decoder; and

a user actuated tagger for applying user actuated tags to said program material received by said receiver-decoder in response to user actuation.

36. A receiver-decoder for use in a broadcast system which includes a headend including a headend tagger for applying headend tags to program material being broadcast and a multiplicity of receiver-decoders at user locations, receiving said program material being broadcast, said receiver-decoder comprising:

a receiver-decoder tagger for applying receiver-decoder tags to program material received by said receiver-decoder; and

a user actuated tagger for applying user actuated tags to said program material received by said receiver-decoder in response to user actuation.

37. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein said receiver-decoder is located in a set top box.

38. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein said receiver-decoder tags are operative to override at least one of the headend tags.

39. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein said user actuated tags are operative to override at least one of the following: at least one of the headend tags; and at least one of the receiver-decoder tags.

40. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein at least one of the headend tags can not be overridden by any of the following: the receiver-decoder tags; and the user-actuated tags.

41. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein at least one of:

the headend tags, the receiver-decoder tags, and the user-actuated tags comprises a tag determining at least one of the following:

a program retrieval parameter; and a content retrieval parameter.

42. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein the receiver-decoder tags comprise a recording quality parameter determining a quality of recording of the program material.

43. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein the user-actuated tags comprise a rating parameter determining a rating of the program as provided by the user.

44. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein the program material comprises a commercial, and

the headend tags comprise at least one of the following:

at least one commercial parameter;

a parameter determining a request for additional information relating to at least one of the following: the commercial; and the program; and

a parameter determining expiration of the commercial after an event comprising at least one of the following: a predetermined number of people having viewed the commercial; and the user having viewed the commercial a predetermined number of times.

45. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein the headend tags comprise a tag disabling one of the following:

fast-forward browsing through at least a portion of the program material; and

fast-backward browsing through at least a portion of the program material.

46. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein the program material comprises two separate television programs for display simultaneously in a picture-in-picture (PIP) mode on a television screen, and the user-actuated tags

comprise a tag determining a viewing selection for viewing only one of the two separate television programs on the full television screen.

47. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein the headend tags comprises at least one tag determining at least one of the following information fields: a type of the program material; supplementary information accompanying the program material; an associated audio channel in a language which differs from a language used in an original audio channel associated with the program material; program delete enabled/disabled; parental control associated with at least a portion of the program material; an expiration time of the program material; picture-in-picture availability; a program title; a time when the program material is broadcast; a length of the program material; a determination whether the program material is encrypted; a compression format of the program material; characteristics of the program material; cancellation of material already transmitted in the program material; selective routing of part of the program material to selected users; context specific tagging; and a media item.

48. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein the receiver-decoder tags comprise at least one tag determining at least one of the following information fields: a quality of recording of the program material; a type of program material whose recording is required; identifying information identifying a favorite program whose recording is required; a time and a date when recording of program material is required; existence of a review attached to the program material; context specific tagging; a media item; and a category of the program material.

49. A receiver-decoder according to claim 36 and wherein the user-actuated tags comprise at least one tag determining at least one of the following information fields: a program rating provided by the user; a review of a program; a request for additional information relating to a program; a format of a program after editing operations; at least one highlight in a program; compression

preferences for compressing a program prior to storage; image manipulation; and video wallpaper selection.

50. A communication method comprising:  
operating a headend including a headend tagger for applying headend tags to program material being broadcast; and  
causing a multiplicity of receiver-decoders at user locations to receive said program material being broadcast and to apply receiver-decoder tags and user actuated tags to said program material received by at least one of said receiver-decoders.

51. A communication method according to claim 50 and wherein at least one of said receiver-decoders is located in a set top box.

52. A broadcast receiving method useful with a headend including a headend tagger which applies headend tags to program material being broadcast, the method comprising:

causing a receiver-decoder at a user location to receive said program material being broadcast and to apply receiver-decoder tags and user actuated tags to said program material received by said receiver-decoder.

53. A broadcast receiving method according to claim 52 and wherein said receiver-decoder is located in a set top box.

54. A broadcast system comprising:  
a headend for broadcasting program material; and  
a multiplicity of receiver-decoders at user locations, each receiving said program material being broadcast and recording said program material at a selectable quality level.

55. A receiver-decoder for use in a broadcast system which includes a headend for broadcasting program material and a multiplicity of receiver-

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decoders at user locations, said receiver-decoder comprising:

a recorder for recording said program material at a selectable quality level.

56. A receiver-decoder according to claim 55 and wherein said receiver-decoder comprises a computer agent which selects said quality level.

57. A receiver-decoder according to claim 55 and wherein said receiver-decoder is located in a set top box.

58. A receiver-decoder according to claim 55 and also comprising a rating actuator operative to input information determining a rating given to the program.

59. A receiver-decoder according to claim 55 and also comprising a NEXT selector operative to cause the receiver-decoder to browse through at least one television program stored in a memory comprised in said receiver-decoder.

60. A receiver-decoder according to claim 59 and wherein the NEXT selector is operative to cause the receiver-decoder to jump to a predefined next portion of at least one television program stored in the memory.

61. Apparatus according to claim 59 and wherein said NEXT selector is operative to cause the receiver-decoder to browse in accordance with an order determined by at least one of the following: a user; an agent comprised in the receiver-decoder; and a broadcaster of the television program.

62. Apparatus according to claim 59 and wherein said NEXT selector is operative to cause the receiver-decoder to browse through television programs stored in the memory in accordance with a hierarchy.

63. Apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein said hierarchy is determined by at least one of the following: the user; the agent; and the broadcaster.

64. A broadcast method comprising:  
operating a headend to broadcast program material;  
causing a multiplicity of receiver-decoders at user locations to receive said program material being broadcast and to record said program material at a selectable quality level.

65. A broadcast method according to claim 64 and wherein said recording is carried out by a computer agent.

66. A broadcast method according to claim 64 and wherein at least one of said receiver-decoders is located in a set top box.

67. A broadcast receiving method useful with a headend which broadcasts program material to a plurality of receiver-decoders located at user locations, the method comprising:

causing a receiver-decoder at a user location to receive said program material being broadcast and to record said program material at a selectable quality level.

68. A broadcast receiving method according to claim 67 and wherein said recording is carried out by a computer agent.

69. A broadcast receiving method according to claim 67 and wherein said receiver-decoder is located in a set top box.

70. A broadcast system comprising:  
a headend for broadcasting program material with commercials; and  
a multiplicity of receiver-decoders at user locations, each receiving

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said program material being broadcast and including a commercial unit for dealing with said commercials based at least partially on past viewing thereof.

71. A receiver-decoder for use with a broadcast system having a headend for broadcasting program material with commercials and a multiplicity of receiver-decoders at user locations, said receiver-decoder comprising:

a receiver for receiving said program material being broadcast; and

a commercial unit for dealing with said commercials based at least partially on past viewing thereof.

72. A receiver-decoder according to claim 71 and wherein said receiver-decoder deals with said commercials based at least partially on a history of viewing of said commercials via said receiver-decoder.

73. A receiver-decoder according to claim 71 and wherein said receiver-decoder deals with said commercials based at least partially on a history of viewing of said commercials by multiple users.

74. A receiver-decoder according to claim 71 and wherein said receiver-decoder deals with said commercials by determining conditions pursuant to which they are viewed by a user.

75. A receiver-decoder according to claim 71 and wherein said receiver-decoder deals with said commercials by determining conditions pursuant to which viewing of said commercials is obviated by user action.

76. A receiver-decoder according to claim 71 and wherein said receiver-decoder deals with said commercials by determining the conditions pursuant to which their viewing may be obviated independently of user action.

77. A digital program recording control method comprising:  
deciding whether to record a program pursuant to a recording

determination; and

determining a recording quality at which to record said program in accordance with a recording quality parameter.

78. A digital program receiving control method comprising:  
deciding whether to record a program pursuant to a recording determination; and  
deciding whether to play a program pursuant to a play determination based on a program rating.

79. A digital program receiving method according to claim 78 and wherein said program rating comprises a user-determined program rating.

80. A digital program recording method comprising:  
deciding whether to record a program pursuant to a recording determination, based at least in part on a program rating.

81. A digital program recording method according to claim 80 and wherein said program rating comprises a user-determined program rating.

82. A digital program decision method comprising:  
deciding whether to play a program pursuant to a play determination based on a program rating.

83. A digital program decision method according to claim 82 and wherein said program rating is a user-determined program rating.

84. A broadcast system comprising:  
a headend for broadcasting program material with a browsable program structure; and  
a multiplicity of receiver-decoders at user locations, each receiving said program material being broadcast and including a receiver-decoder browser



for browsing said program material at least in accordance with said browsable program structure.

85. A receiver-decoder for use with a broadcast system having a headend for broadcasting program material with a browsable program structure and a multiplicity of receiver-decoders at user locations, said receiver-decoder comprising:

- a receiver for receiving said program material being broadcast; and
- a receiver-decoder browser for browsing said program material at least in accordance with said browsable program structure.

86. A receiver-decoder according to claim 85 and wherein said browsable program structure comprises a plurality of individually accessible sequential units.

87. A receiver-decoder according to claim 85 and wherein said receiver-decoder includes user actuable access apparatus for enabling a user to selectably access one or more of said individually accessible sequential units.

88. A broadcast system comprising:

- a headend for broadcasting program material with a program structure including non-user view controllable portions; and
- a multiplicity of receiver-decoders at user locations, each receiving said program material being broadcast and including a receiver-decoder browser for enabling user view control of said program material other than said non-user view controllable portions thereof.

89. A receiver-decoder for use with a broadcast system comprising a headend for broadcasting program material with a program structure including non-user view controllable portions and a multiplicity of receiver-decoders at user locations, the receiver-decoder comprising:

- a receiver for receiving said program material being broadcast; and

a receiver-decoder browser for enabling user view control of said program material other than said non-user view controllable portions thereof.

90. A digital program receiving method comprising:  
deciding whether to record a program pursuant to a recording determination; and  
if a result of the deciding step indicates that the program should be recorded:  
recording the program; and  
deciding whether to play the program pursuant to a play determination based at least partially on a user-determined program rating.

91. Apparatus for digital recording of a program comprising:  
a processor for determining whether to record the program;  
a circular buffer associated with the processor and operative to store the program in response to a recording determination received from the processor;  
a conditional access module for providing conditional access to the program stored in the circular buffer; and  
input apparatus operatively associated with the processor, wherein:  
upon receiving a freeze indication via the input apparatus, the processor is operative to record the program in the circular buffer from a moment of receiving the freeze indication, and  
upon receiving a play indication via the input apparatus, the processor is operative to play the program recorded in the circular buffer from the moment of receiving the freeze indication in accordance with conditions determined by the conditional access module.

92. Apparatus for digital recording according to claim 91 and wherein the conditions determined by the conditional access module comprise disabling of at least one of the following:

fast-forward over selected portions of the program; and

fast-backward over selected portions of the program.

93. A method for digital recording of a program comprising:  
providing a circular buffer;  
determining whether to record the program; and  
performing the following steps:

upon receiving a freeze indication, recording the program in the circular buffer from a moment of receiving the freeze indication, and

upon receiving a play indication, playing the program recorded in the circular buffer from the moment of receiving the freeze indication in accordance with conditional access conditions.--

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